

09/355,268

REMARKS

I thank the Examiner for the extremely helpful and constructive telephone discussion of October 18th granted between the Examiner and the undersigned, and with the participation of the Applicant's European representative.

As suggested by the Examiner in the discussion, some minor amendments have been made to independent Claims 1 and 6 to clarify further the distinction over the cited art. For the record, it is respectfully submitted that the previous claims were clearly distinguished over Davis, but this amendment is believed to satisfy the Examiner's concern that the interrelationship between steps was not completely clear from the previous wording.

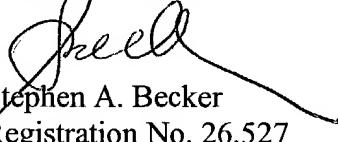
It is believed that, with this clarification and as discussed, the Examiner's rejection over Davis can be withdrawn. It is therefore considered that Claims 1 and 6, and at least by virtue of their dependency, the remaining dependent claims are novel and non-obvious over the cited art.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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